REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 20 have been amended. Claim 8 had been canceled. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-42 are currently pending in the above-identified application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Supplemental to Information Disclosure Statement filed February 28, 2002, copies of the English abstracts or an English translation of the Japanese patent documents and other documents filed therein accompany this Amendment. The abstracts and translation are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form that also accompanies this Amendment.

Specification

The specification has been amended as required by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 has been amended are required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-19, 21-39 and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowenthal et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,306) in view of Ito (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0056438). Claims 20 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §013(a) as being unpatentable over Lowenthal et al in view of Ito and further in view of Ledain et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,408). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 8 to more clearly define the present invention over the cited art. Accordingly to the presently claimed invention, the data position management server acquires information regarding a data structure including a table, index and log defined by a database management system's schema (see specification page 30, line 28 to page 33, line 13). Based upon this acquired information, a data allocation analysis plan and a data relocation plan are prepared for operation by optimizing data allocation at the block level (for example, separation of physical devices between data structures and insuring I/O parallelization or sequentiality) within storage

devices with respect to the data structures of the table, index and the like (see specification, page 43, line 8 to page 65, line 10). Therefore, Applicants' invention realizes a much greater optimization of data allocation as compared with Lowenthal et al by taking into account information that Lowenthal et al do not consider.

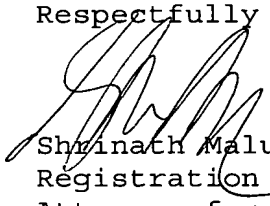
Lowenthal et al disclose optimization of data allocation on either a table space basis or an oracle file basis constituting a table space (see column 6, lines 38-43). However, Lowenthal et al do not disclose or suggest the position of a table space in which data is stored. In rejecting claim 8, the Examiner relies upon column 4, lines 7-40. However, Applicants disagree that this portion of Lowenthal et al supports the Examiner's position.

Furthermore, the deficiencies in Lowenthal et al are not overcome by resort to Ito. The Examiner relies upon Ito for data migration. However, the term "migrate" as used in Ito is not directed to the migration of data but to correspond to a mode change from a "mirrored mode" to a "split mode". Therefore, the Examiner's attempt at combination of references still fails to render the presently claimed invention unpatentable. As such, it is requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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